

## Letter from A.J. Henderson to Alexander Graham Bell, February 24, 1888

THE "CALIGRAPH" WRITING MACHINE "STANDS AT THE HEAD." ENABLES YOU—  
To print with speed of pen in a week. Without weariness or danger of "Pen Paralysis" to  
do from three to ten times as much as with pen. To print from one to ten copies at once.  
Received highest awards at Toronto Industrial, and Provincial-Dominion Exhibitions,  
1882, 1883, 1884 and 1885 over other competitors. Mr. Blake's law firm alone uses four  
Caligraphs; the Canada Life three, etc., also exclusively used by House of Commons  
Reporters. Machine supplies, all kinds, on hand; Ribbons re-inked. Stenographers  
provided; Machines rented to learners. **A. J. HENDERSON**, *General Agent*. General  
Agency, also Copying Office, 15 ADELAIDE ST. EAST, TORONTO, ONT. •It combines  
Durability, Speed Neatness of Work and Manifold Power in a Greater Degree than any  
other. 24th Feb. 1888. Prof. A. Grahame Bell, WASHINGTON, D.C. Dear Sir/—

Many years ago I had the favor and pleasure of your acquaintance, and you may not recall  
to mind that I accompanied you once to see the officials of the then Montreal Telegraph  
Co. in this city in regard to some of your inventions affecting telegraph companies.  
Among your other discoveries I have been very deeply interested in the progress of the  
"Graphophone," and hence this letter. I see in the Phonographic World for February  
an adverse editorial upon it, but I am one of those who are fully prepared to yield to  
the inevitable and abandon my shorthand if something can be obtained which more  
successfully accomplishes the same purpose, and the objections urged are to my mind  
not fatal by any means. I have now since the spring of 1876 been one of the High Court  
stenographers in this country, and since 1880 have had the agency for Ontario as well  
as Quebec and the Northwest for the Caligraph writing machine. My work therefore  
in two respects brings me into contact with all classes of business men who require  
stenographers or machine operators with an equivalent to stenography such as the

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Graphophone appears to me may supply. 2 If the Graphophone promises with good reason to fill this field I would like not only to obtain one to use in connection with my court work instead of shorthand, but I would be pleased also to be favored with a refusal of the agency when it is ready for the market, so far as these provinces are concerned. I have no doubt my position with the extensive connections of my writing machine agency will enable me to bring it more prominently and generally before the public than anybody else could do.

I will be glad if you can find time to let me know how the invention stands and when the instruments, in their perfected state so as to be of practical use in court work, will be ready for users, and such information as you can afford me.

Very respectfully yours, A.J. Henderson